

The State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference

An upcoming conference that science writers may be interested in attending.

What is SOLEC?

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conferences (or SOLEC) are a series of conferences held every two years to *assess the state of the Great Lakes*. They are binational and involve many people and agencies at all levels of the government.

Who Organizes SOLEC?

SOLECs are organized and hosted by Environment Canada and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as representatives of the Governments of Canada and the United States (the Parties to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement).

Why do we have SOLECs?

One of the mandates of the Parties to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is to report regularly on the health of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. SOLEC does this by pulling together information from all the components of the ecosystem. At SOLEC 96 it was recognized that a regular and consistent reporting format was necessary, so a suite of indicators was proposed at SOLEC 98. These 79 indicators are to be used together in order to assess the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. At SOLEC 2000 we will begin reporting out on these indicators. It will take some time before we can report out on all the indicators and give a complete assessment (in some cases new monitoring programs may have to be initiated). In addition, it will not be necessary to report out on all indicators every year (or even every two years).

When will SOLEC 2000 be held?

October 17 to 19, 2000

Where will SOLEC 2000 be held?

Hamilton Convention Centre, Hamilton, Ontario

Why should you attend SOLEC 2000?

Science writers are encouraged to attend SOLEC as it could be your “one-stop” source of information on the Great Lakes. Information will be presented in an understandable format that can be easily manipulated to suit your audience. In addition, you will have access to hundreds of scientists and senior decision-makers attending the conference.

For More Information...

Visit our SOLEC web site at www.cciw.ca/solec/

Or Contact: Jennifer McKay, Communications Advisor, Environment Canada (416)739-4785